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WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1852.

TO THE READERS OF THE NATIONAL ERA.

It is with great pleasure that we announce to our readers, that we have succeeded in engaging Mrs. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, as a regular contributor to the columns of the *Era*. She may not be able, for some time, to contribute another work of the character of that lately completed, and of which more than fifty thousand copies have already been sold; but meantime we may expect shorter and less elaborate productions from her pen.

We take this occasion also to announce that Miss SARAH JANE CLARK, more widely known as GRACE GREENWOOD, who is engaged for the *Era* exclusively, will leave this country on the 26th instant for Europe, where she will furnish a series of Letters from the Old World, for our columns, which for the rest of the year will constitute one of the chief attractions of the paper. She will be absent probably a year, so that we shall have the pleasure and benefit of her mature observations on English and European life.

We hope the foregoing information may be widely circulated by our friends, so that the many admirers of the authors named may put themselves in communication with them through the *Era*.

Will our friends of the press do us the favor to call attention to the announcement above? We shall be pleased to reciprocate their courtesy.

RANK AND NOBILITY.

The reader's attention is directed to the Story entitled "Rank and Nobility," commenced in this week's *Era*. It will be continued in successive numbers. Back numbers will be supplied to new subscribers.

Correspondents and Literary Notices are crowded out this week.

MR. ADAMS.—The venerable widow of the late John Quincy Adams died at her residence in this city last Saturday evening. Congress, as a sign of mark of respect for the deceased, adjourned over from Monday till Wednesday, so that the Members might attend the funeral, which took place last Tuesday.

CALIFORNIA AND SLAVERY.

California.—It is now confidently believed that this new State will alter or construe away that portion of her Constitution which prohibits slavery.—*Columbian (Ga.) Times*.

We said, three years ago, in a public journal, that California was sure to remove every restriction that could be placed upon her by the General Government, and that she would be the largest slaveholder of all the States. The thing appeared to us so palpable, that we could not see how any man could doubt it. What makes Louisiana and Texas such large slaveholders? Why, the remuneration received for slave labor. What makes any country a slaveholding country? The prospect of gain. And where can slave labor be so profitable as employed as in the gold mines of California?

As things are now, no man can obtain more gold than can be accumulated by his own personal industry. If he form an association, the proceeds are equally divided, so that he gets no more than one man's share. If he hire hands in the Atlantic States, they will leave him as soon as they get to the mines; for they will not work for ten dollars a week, or a month, when they can make ten dollars a day. If he bind them up in penalties, he cannot exact them; for if they do not wish to work for him, they can soon gather gold enough to pay them off.

The only way to have a regular corps of workmen, and to keep them together—the only way to develop the resources of a piece of gold property belonging to an individual, is to employ slaves. They will stay as long as they like together; and this order of estates in California will be sure to do. The way was paved by the last Legislature, when they authorized the system of Chinese peonage. The next step will be African slavery, and as we here in Virginia are overrun with slaves, we hope to see it draw off about half. Virginia does not need more than about 250,000 slaves, according to Mr. James C. Bruce, who is it to be supposed, understands a subject in which he is so deeply interested.

We have heard it said that California will never be a slave State, because the majority of its population is free. Bah! Our Northern friends cannot learn to see other people employ slave labor; but if they found it to their advantage, they would employ it with as little remorse as they manifested when they engaged in the slave trade upon a gigantic scale. They are only opposed to it, because slave labor does not pay in their part of the world. That is all!

Richmond (Va.) Dispatch, May 12.

Let us hope that the predictions of these humane and far-sighted editors may prove false. The mere politicians in California seem capable of anything mischievous or mean; but the people, we trust, will not follow their lead. Chinese peonage has not yet been sanctioned by law; nor has a favorable answer yet been given to the prayer of the enlightened and distinguished gentlemen who begged permission to establish a model plantation, so as to show the Californians how well they could live by the labor of others. If the honest voters of California, who are satisfied with the proceeds of their "own personal industry," keep their eyes open, and do their duty, the State will never be cursed by slave labor.

But, what a narrow escape it has had! It was the Wilcox Provision that saved it. First, the agitation of that subject forced the organization of a State Government, while as yet the large majority of the settlers were from the free States, whence they had carried with them the prevailing sentiment against Slavery extension—a sentiment which led to the incorporation of the Provision in the organic law; and the same agitation constrained Congress to admit the new State into the Union.

By the way, the argument of the *Dispatch*, in favor of the introduction of slave labor into California, will be anything but convincing to the gold diggers and the masses generally; for it is an argument in favor of capital and land monopoly, against labor and small property-holders.

"As things now are," it says, "no man can obtain more gold than can be accumulated by his own personal industry." Very well—that is democratic—in accordance with equality of rights. An honest man ought to be satisfied with a state of things so healthful. Not so the editor of the *Dispatch*. In his judgment, a well-ordered society consists of a few rich men, and many poor ones, the former possessing all the capital and land, the latter doing all the labor; the rich growing richer, the poor, regular corps of workmen, and to keep them together—the only way to develop the resources of a piece of gold property belonging to an individual, is to employ slaves. They, and they alone, can be kept together; and this, the owners of estates in California will be sure to do."

And suppose this succeed, how long before the gold mines and the lands will fall into the hands of grasping speculators or soulless corporations, and the industrious men, now honestly subsisting upon the fruit of their own labor, be crowded out by slaves? But, what does an advocate of Slavery care for this? The laborer, in his eye, is the mere instrument of capital, entitled to no consideration, any further than he may minister to its exactions.

THE CASE STATED.

The Compromise consists of six distinct parts:

1st. The act admitting California as a free State.

2d. The determination of the boundary line between Texas and New Mexico, with the payment of ten millions to the former for its claims.

3d. The organization of Territorial Governments for New Mexico and Utah, without any provision excluding Slavery.

4th. The prohibition of slave-importation in the District of Columbia.

5th. The law for the reclamation of fugitives from service or labor.

6th. A declaration, that hereafter States applying for admission into the Union, shall be admitted, with or without Slavery, as they shall elect.

The Compromise party, laying aside all other questions, thrust this system of measures into the Presidential canvass, as the sole issue, and demand the judgment of the country upon it. They require—no acquiescence, as a final adjustment of the whole question of Slavery, so far as it can affect national politics.

We recognize their right to make such an issue, nor do we underrate its importance; but let us clearly understand it.

Four parts of this Compromise nobody proposes to disturb. The Anti-Slavery party, which the Compromisers seek to crush, approves of the act admitting the State of California, submits to the settlement of the boundary question with Texas, as a thing irrevocable, and would be unwilling to deprive New Mexico and Utah of their Territorial Governments, and would oppose the repeal of the law prohibiting the importation of slaves into the District of Columbia. In all this, we suppose, it concurs with the general opinion of the country. If our acquiescence in these measures be asked, we yield it—to some because we approve of them, to the rest because we cannot help them. These therefore constitute no practical questions between us and the Compromise party. But the remaining two portions of the Compromise—the Fugitive Law, and the Declaration in regard to the admission of slave States—are liable to modification or revocation.

What, then, is the real issue forced upon us by the Compromisers? 1st. *Acquiescence* in this law, and in the policy embodied in this Declaration; and 2dly, the acceptance of the Compromise in all its parts, as a final settlement of the question of Slavery. They mean by this, that the political organizations of the country shall pledge themselves against the repeal or amendment of the Fugitive Law, in favor of the admission of new slave States, against any action to prevent the introduction of Slavery into New Mexico and Utah, even should its advocates attempt to establish it there, in favor of the perpetuation of Slavery in the District of Columbia, and, of course, against all agitation or discussion of questions of Slavery.

Should this pledge be given by the Whig and Democratic organizations, it must be evident that a strong influence will be brought to bear against the Anti-Slavery movement. Party machinery will be put in operation to carry it out to the letter. Free discussion will be deemed an offence. No man, hostile to the Fugitive Law, or in favor of discussing the subject of Slavery, until the country by peaceable and constitutional means be rid of its evil, will be recognized as a fit candidate for office, or safe member of the party. Local Anti-Slavery action by sections of the party, while adhering to the National organization, would be denounced as a violation of the pledge.

This pledge can be given in two ways—by the resolutions of the National Convention of the party, or by the declarations or known position of its Presidential candidates.

Messrs. Cass, Buchanan, Douglas, Butler, Dickinson, are all known to be committed to the support of the Compromise in its totality as a final settlement. The nomination of any one of them, even without a declaration by the Convention, would be equivalent to the giving of an express pledge on the subject, and every supporter of the nomination would become by that act a party to the pledge.

The same remark would be applicable to the nomination of Fillmore or Webster by the Whig Convention. Such a nomination in itself would be a pledge to the totality and finality test, and the supporters of it would make themselves parties to the pledge. So that, should they, at any subsequent time, if any section of the country, agitate or discuss the question of Slavery, they would stand convicted of a breach of faith and gross inconsistency.

On the other hand, an express declaration by either Convention of adhesion to the Compromise as a final adjustment, would determine the position of its candidate for the Presidency, whoever he might be; for the acceptance of the nomination in the absence of any intimation of dissent, would be conclusive evidence that he concurred in the great issue involved in that nomination.

It is proper that these things should be clearly understood beforehand. Every art will be tried to sophisticate honest voters to mystify them, to delude them into the abandonment of their principles, to make them subservient to the exactions of the Slave Power.

Mr. Bots of Virginia has lately made certain revelations, calculated to check the zeal of those who are in haste to commit themselves to the support of General Scott. Here is a part of a letter he publishes in the *Richmond (Va.) Whig*, after having had "a very long, free, and full interchange of views with him"—(the General).

"General Scott occupies no doubtful or equivocal position on the Compromise, nor does he desire to do so; and if he did, I would not support him, even if nominated. His views are freely expressed to every man who approaches him, in a matter which he feels to be his own. He is accessible to every respectable man in the country, who chooses to approach him, and he has never hesitated to say that he is in favor of the Compromise measures in all their parts, and opposed to any disturbance, agitation, or alteration of the Fugitive Slave Law; and he enjoins confidence and secrecy on no man to whom he makes this communication."

"Under the circumstances mentioned, he has come to the conclusion (and I incline to think wisely) that the true course for him to pursue is to publish nothing, unless he shall be the nominee; when, if the Convention shall adopt a course that will make his acceptance necessary or otherwise afford him this opportunity, he will speak out freely and fully, and this would place him, in my opinion, in a more elevated position than if he were to permit himself now to be hurried into writing to receive the nomination."

As to the version Mr. Bots gives of the sentiments of General Scott, let it go as one man's testimony; but what are we to think of the statement which we place in italics? General

Scott will remain silent until the Convention shall have acted; he will permit thousands of honest men to commit themselves in his favor, on the presumption that he has resolved to maintain a position of absolute independence as it respects the test exacted by the Compromise party—but should he receive the nomination, then he will speak out freely and fully, and accept this test! This is precisely the meaning of Mr. Bots; and is this the entertainment to which Mr. Seward and his friends are inviting the North? Is General Scott capable of such trickery? Do they believe it? Would they sanction it? We hope not; but it is a safe rule to take nothing on trust in politics.

For ourselves, our policy is simple, clear, and straight. We support no National party, and no candidate for the Presidency, who will not adopt the safe, constitutional, beneficent principle—Non-Interference by the Federal Government with Slavery, or the Extradition of Slaves.

MR. HALE.

The Hon. John P. Hale, of New Hampshire, familiarly known as Jack Hale, who now holds a seat in the Senate of the United States, has decided to wear his Senatorial mantle with the expiration of the present Congress. His constituents have decided to send another man to represent them in the Senate of the United States. Who will be his successor, is not yet known. Rumor says that the mantle will fall on the Hon. Edmund Burke, a gentleman of education and talent, who has been somewhat distinguished in parliament and the world of letters.

We shall witness the retirement of Mr. Hale with deep regret; not because of the political creed he has advocated, but because we entertain sincere respect for the man. Since Mr. Hale has held a seat in the Senate, he has distinguished himself as a ready, able, and a powerful debater, as well as a humorist, a satirist, and a statesman. He has been occupied with any man to fill the seat he has occupied, with the ability that has so justly entitled him to the respect and good will of the American people.

It is not probable that Mr. Hale will long remain in private life. Talents like his cannot be hid "under a bushel"; and the people of New Hampshire are too proud of their favorite son to suffer him to be cast into political oblivion. They place on him the highest estimate. Of this fact we had abundant evidence some two years ago, whilst travelling through New Hampshire; for, wherever we went, we heard his name and talents lauded about by the sons of the Granite State. Such a man cannot be kept from the councils of the nation by the artifice of faction or party.

A generous tribute, well deserved. Mr. Hale, radical as he is known to be, bold as he always is in his exposure and denunciation of abuses, is one of the most popular men in the Senate. After the retirement of Thomas Morris of Ohio, the North was without a champion in the Senate of its institutions and characteristic sentiments. We do not say that it was always without a defender, but there was no one uniformly vigilant, prompt, and zealous, in once vindicating and promoting its Anti-Slavery Principles, until Mr. Hale took his seat in that body.

From that hour, the stiff conservatism of the Senate began to give way, and the right of Free Discussion became firmly established, as it had been in the House through the heroic efforts of John Quincy Adams and Joshua R. Giddings.

Mr. Hale, during his Senatorial career, has maintained a position independent of party organization, and has shown what one man can accomplish, simply as an individual, acting without the force of party associations. His voice has always been heard against wasteful expenditures; no one has labored more earnestly or successfully to secure attention to the well-founded claims of individuals upon the justice of the Government; to him, more than to any single member of the Senate, is due the credit of the abolition of the inhuman punishment of flogging in the navy; and he deserves the thanks of all enemies of shame for the keen satire with which he has turned into ridicule the artful demagogues which has so often sought influence, by flattering popular passions that needed restraint and by brave declarations in favor of Liberty abroad, while betraying it at home.

We agree with *Atlas* that such a man cannot be kept from the councils of the nation by the artifice of faction or party. He is the prime of life, better qualified than ever for public usefulness. The forces which brought him into the Senate still exist; but their legitimate action in the late election in New Hampshire was baffled chiefly by the intervention of a new disturbing element in politics—the Maine Liquor Law. The friends of Mr. Hale, as might have been expected, endorsed that law, and assumed its burden. They failed, simply because they could not carry double weight. Had the sole issue been, their views on the Senatorial course of Mr. Hale, they would have triumphed.

We hope, then, that when he shall retire from the Senate, he will go from one battlefield to another; and we have no doubt that in the course of a few years, he will return to the Senate to fill the place of one who has grossly violated some of the most important principles he was elected to represent.

CONGRESSIONAL CEREMONIALS.

Cannot our legislators improve their style of reference to each other, by simplifying it? Could they not manage to carry on their deliberations, without constantly informing the world that they are honorable and distinguished gentlemen? "With great deference to the honorable gentleman"—"My honorable friend will permit me to remark"—"The honorable gentleman from Virginia will pardon me"—"The distinguished gentleman from South Carolina"—"Since I had the honor of addressing your honorable body, the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana has made certain allusions" &c. This is a specimen of the prolix, may we not say, puerile, forms, which have become fashionable in both Houses of Congress. The evil is growing. The phrase, the gallant and distinguished gentleman, begins to be applied where the subject of reference is a military man; and Mr. Fowler, of Massachusetts, sometimes hears himself styled, "the Reverend gentleman from Massachusetts." By and by, we may have "Right Reverend," "most worshipful," &c., under the sudden inspiration which so often seizes our spasmodic orators.

"Senators!"—that was the simple, manly style of address, with which Mr. Calhoun usually commenced his remarks. Where is the sense or taste of this perpetual hankering after high-sounding titles? "The Senator from New Hampshire"—the member from Maryland—"The gentleman or the representative from Delaware"—is not this style good enough, courteous enough? Is it not more in accordance with the simplicity of a Republican form of Government, which has repudiated titles, as at variance with Democracy, and derogatory to the simple dignity which belongs or ought to belong to the servants of a free people?

Having simplified the style of address, suppose an attempt then be made to abate that dreadful circumscription intended for courtesy? For example, could not a member make a right-timed, gentlemanly, modest speech, without prefixing it with an appeal for pardon, or a declaration of profound deference, or a display of extraordinary humility, or a charitable recognition of the pure motives of somebody differing from him in opinion, as if that

somebody's motives, without such recognition, would be of course better doubtful?

If this cumbersome ceremonial of politeness tended to make members more courteous towards one another, and more refined in their deportment, it might be tolerated, but, as a general rule, we think it will be found that gentlemen most addicted to these solemn formulas of politeness, are oftenest guilty of violating its true spirit and dictates.

MR. CLEVELAND'S SPEECH.—The speech of Ex-Governor Cleveland, of Connecticut, delivered several weeks since, has but lately appeared in the *Globe*. So much of it as relates to the question of Slavery, we publish in this week's *Era*. It was listened to with great attention, and produced a decided sensation. It is the bold, indignant utterance of a man whose passions had been exhausted by the abuse heaped upon Northern men.

On comparing our copy taken from the *Globe*, with the pamphlet edition of the Speech, we find the following important clause, referring to the Fugitive Law, omitted in the *Globe* reprint—"In its origin and principles." These words should follow the statement made in the first column of the speech, that the Fugitive Slave Law was "a purely Whig measure."

THE SPEECH OF PRESTON KING, of New York, expressing, as we presume he does, the views and purposes of the New York Democracy, will be read with great interest. He is a calm, mild, but determined man, always measuring his words with care, never threatening, generally saying less than he means.

THE COLLINS LINE.—MR. SEWARD'S SPEECH. On our fourth page we insert the speech of Mr. Seward in support of the proposed additional appropriation to the Collins line of steamers, as presenting, in a condensed form, the whole of the argument on that side of the question. We shall take occasion, at a proper time, to lay before our readers the argument on the other side.

BREAKERS AHEAD.—In several parts of the South, delegates have been appointed to the Baltimore Democratic Convention, by Union Democrats and Secession Democrats, respectively. In Vermont, in some instances, the Hunker Democrats, displeased with the appointment of delegates by the regular organization, have drawn off, and appointed their own. From Massachusetts there will be a competitor for Mr. Rantoul's seat. The controversy springing out of these conflicting claims will be productive of great excitement, and of difficult adjustment.

MAJOR DONELSON, the editor of the Washington Union has sold out his interest in the concern to General Armstrong, and retired, disgusted, we presume, with the fierce hostility against him, manifested by a large portion of the Democratic members. That he has failed to please his party friends, is not surprising, as they have not yet been able to please themselves. We suppose the re-organization of the organ will depend very much upon the re-organization of the platform at Baltimore.

THE PRESIDENCY.

Amid the agitation among the Democratic politicians for the nomination by the 1st of June Baltimore Convention, Gen. JOSEPH LANE, of Indiana, is much talked of in private circles, as a compromise nominee, in case Gen. Cass or Mr. Buchanan fail to receive a two-thirds vote of the Convention. Should the scheme of Gen. Lane's friends succeed, it is calculated that the Convention would not deem it necessary to pass resolutions declaring the Compromise measures a "finality." The grounds of this belief rest upon a speech made by General Lane at Indianapolis, on his return from Oregon, in which he indicated his position. He said, "that the Compromise measures, each and every one of them, met his cordial approval; and had he been a member of Congress, he should have voted for all of them, including the Fugitive Slave Law, which was a measure absolutely necessary to carry out one of the Compromise features of the Constitution. They were all right; but this was the best measure of all. The slavery question, he said, was always a dangerous and exciting one, and he had always been opposed to the agitation of it. The people of the free States had nothing to do with it. They should leave it where it is, and where the Constitution has left it, and it could never be agitated without endangering the integrity of the Union. He was, he said, a Union man; and to preserve the Union, the Constitution must be carried out in its letter and its spirit; politically, he recognized no law above the Constitution. He hoped every citizen of Indiana would be found supporting these measures, and frowning upon every attempt further to agitate the slavery question."

This speech we find in a book recently published, under the title of "Biography of Joseph Lane—by Western"; and bearing the imprint of the Congressional Globe Office, 1852. It is doubtless issued "by authority," and is intended to smooth his way to the object of his ambition. Without dwelling upon the talents or capacity of Gen. Lane for the Presidency, we commend this extract to the attention of our readers. His friends calculate that he can carry New York. We opine that the political cipherers have missed a figure if they suppose that New York can be carried by any man who holds the opinion that the Fugitive Slave Law is a measure "absolutely necessary," not only "right," but "the best measure of all." We may remark that Gen. Lane exhibits great political sagacity in endorsing as the "best measure of all," that feature of the Compromise which is most unpopular both at the North and the South!

THE COLUMBIA MURDER.

The Governor of Maryland has appointed Commissioners to confer with the Governor of Pennsylvania, in relation to the murder of the colored man at Columbia, Pa., by officer Ridgely, of Baltimore. We have given this man's version of the affair; appended are two other versions from the *Harrisburg Telegraph*.

"On arriving at Columbia, the officers found the colored man engaged piling boards. Snyder approached him, and as he was in the act of lifting some boards, struck him on the back, and said, 'You are my prisoner.' At which the negro dropped the boards, looked up amazed at the officer, and then ran about thirty feet to a fence, where he was in the act of crossing, when he was caught, and pulled to the ground by Snyder; Ridgely, who swore he would shoot the negro when he ran, came up while Snyder was making such entry, but in case of a widow making such entry, her heirs or devisees in case of her death, shall prove by two credible witnesses that he, she, or they, have continued to reside upon and cultivate said land, and still reside upon the same, and have not alienated the same, or any part thereof, then, in such case, he, she, or they, shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided for by law: And provided, further, That in case of the death of both father and mother, leaving an infant child or children under fourteen years of age, the right and the fee shall inure to the benefit of said infant child or children; and the executor, administrator, or guardian, may, at any time within two years after the death of the surviving parent, sell said land for the benefit of such infants, but for no other purpose; and he states that the negro had not been arrested by either Snyder or Ridgely—that he was engaged piling boards in a narrow place between

plies of lumber on two sides, and a fence at one end of the space. Snyder and Ridgely entered at the other end, and commanded the negro to surrender, or they would shoot him. The negro then sprang for the fence, and was in the act of getting over, when Ridgely shot him through the head. They were both within two yards of the negro when he was shot, but did not put their hands upon him. After the deed was done, Ridgely was represented as from Harrisburg, and stated that he was a United States officer, and if arrested, he would have those who shot him taken for false imprisonment. This had the effect to intimidate the officers there, until Ridgely escaped over the bridge, and made his way to Maryland."

These differ only in the degree of brutality which they ascribe to the officer of the law.

THE PASSAGE OF THE HOMESTEAD BILL.

This bill passed the House, May 12th, by the following vote:

YEAS.—Messrs. Abernethy, Charles Allen, Willis Allen, Allison, Babcock, Bartlett, Bissell, Briggs, Brooks, Albert G. Brown, Beall, Busby, Caldwell, Campbell, Campbell, Carter, Chandler, Chapman, Churchill, Clark, Cleveland, Cobb, Cottman, Colwell, Curtis, George T. Davis, John D. Davis, Dawson, Disney, Doty, Durkee, Eastman, Ewing, Ficklin, Fitch, Florence, Floyd, Fowler, Gamble, Gaylord, Gentry, Giddings, Goodrich, Gorman, Green, Grey, Grow, Hall, Sampson, Harris, Haskell, Hendricks, Henn, Houston, Ingersoll, Jones, Andrew Johnson, John Johnson, Robert W. Johnson, George W. Jones, Knapp, Lockhart, Mason, Edward C. Marshall, McHenry, McNair, Menham, Miller, Molloy, Muller, Moore, John Moore, Newton, Olds, Samuel W. Parker, Penn, Pennington, Perkins, Phelps, Polk, Porter, Richardson, Riddle, Robinson, Robinson, Sackett, Savage, Schoolcraft, David L. Seymour, Skelton, Smith, Snow, Benjamin Stanton, Frederick P. Stanton, Abraham P. Stevens, Stone, St. Martin, Stratton, George W. Thompson, Thurston, Townsend, Tuck, Wallbridge, Wahl, Ward, Watkins, Addison White, Alexander White, Williams, and Yates—107.

NAYS.—Messrs. Aiken, John Appleton, Barrett, David J. Bailey, Thomas H. Bayly, Brevard, Brown, Bull, Brown, Briggs, Breckinridge, Geo. H. Brown, Burrows, Cass, Chastain, Clingman, Colcock, Conger, Dockery, Duncan, Edmunds, Evans, Faulkner, T. J. D. Fuller, Hamilton, Harper, John H. Harris, Hibbard, Holladay, Horner, John W. Howe, Thomas H. Howe, Jackson, Jenkins, George K. King, Preston King, Letcher, Martin, Mason, McQueen, Millson, Morehead, Orin, Outlaw, Pease, Powell, Ross, Scurry, Ogden S. Seymour, Stanley, Taylor, Wallace, Washburn, Welch, and Woodward—66.

The Southern Press makes the following analysis of the vote, classifying the Free-Soilers with Whigs or Conservatives, according to their affinities. We presume the table is correct, though we have not examined it carefully:

	For the bill.	Against it.	Not voting.
	D. W.	D. W.	D. W.
Maine	2	1	3
New Hampshire	1	2	—
Vermont	1	—	2
Massachusetts	1	3	2
Rhode Island	1	—	—
Connecticut	2	1	—
New York	7	3	7
New Jersey	2	—	2
Pennsylvania	8	1	6
Ohio	10	2	2
Indiana	7	—	1
Kentucky	6	—	1
Michigan	3	—	1
Wisconsin	3	—	—
Iowa	2	—	—
California	1	—	—
N. States	61	20	9
Delaware	1	—	—
Maryland	2	1	1
Virginia	2	10	2
N. Carolina	—	5	3
S. Carolina	—	6	—
Florida	—	2	3
Alabama	4	2	—
Mississippi	1	—	3
Tennessee	4	—	—
Kentucky	4	2	2
Missouri	2	—	1
Arkansas	1	—	—
Louisiana	2	1	1
Texas	—	1	—
S. States	20	15	8
	51	20	23
Total	71	35	32

The measure has been introduced in the House, at several successive sessions, by Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, but has never come fairly under discussion till the present session. It was made the special order for March 3d of this year, when the debate was opened by Mr. Dawson, of Pennsylvania; and from that time it was kept up, with occasional interruptions, till the 12th instant, much the larger portion of it embracing political topics alien to the bill. In fact, considering the importance of the measure, there has been little discussion of its merits; but, the People generally seem to have made up their minds in favor of its policy; so that it was sure to command a decisive majority, could it be placed in such a position as would allow a demand for a yeas and nays vote. Some members were willing to throw obstacles in its way in Committee, who were unwilling to record their names against it in the House.

The bill has been referred to a thorough discussion. It will encounter more formidable opposition in that body than in the House, for obvious reasons. Its final passage will be based on the consummation of a wise and beneficent policy, involving consequences of vital importance to the highest interests of the country.

The following is a copy of the bill as it passed the House:

Be it enacted, &c., That any person who is the head of a family, and a citizen of the United States, or any person who is the head of a family, and has become a citizen prior to the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, shall, from and after the passage of this act, be entitled to enter, free of cost, one-quarter section of vacant and unappropriated public lands, or a quantity equal thereto, to be located in a body, in conformity with the legal subdivisions of the public lands, and after the same shall have been surveyed.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the person applying for the benefit of this act shall upon application to the Register of the Land Office in which he or she is about to make such entry, make affidavit before said Register, that he or she is the head of a family, and the owner of any estate in land at the time of such application, and has not disposed of any estate in land to obtain the benefits of this act; and, upon making the affidavit as required, and filing the affidavit with the Register, he or she shall thereupon be permitted to enter the quantity of land already specified: Provided, however, That no certificate shall be given, or patent issued, until the expiration of five years from the date of such entry; and if, at the expiration of such time, the person making such entry, or, if he be dead, his widow; or, in case of her death, his heirs or devisees; or, in case of a widow making such entry, her heirs or devisees in case of her death, shall prove by two credible witnesses that he, she, or they, have continued to reside upon and cultivate said land, and still reside upon the same, and have not alienated the same, or any part thereof, then, in such case, he, she, or they, shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided for by law: And provided, further, That in case of the death of both father and mother, leaving an infant child or children under fourteen years of age, the right and the fee shall inure to the benefit of said infant child or children; and the executor, administrator, or guardian, may, at any time within two years after the death of the surviving parent, sell said land for the benefit of such infants, but for no other purpose; and he states that the negro had not been arrested by either Snyder or Ridgely—that he was engaged piling boards in a narrow place between

plies of lumber on two sides, and a fence at one end of the space. Snyder and Ridgely entered at the other end, and commanded the negro to surrender, or they would shoot him. The negro then sprang for the fence, and was in the act of getting over, when Ridgely shot him through the head. They were both within two yards of the negro when he was shot, but did not put their hands upon him. After the deed was done, Ridgely was represented as from Harrisburg, and stated that he was a United States officer, and if arrested, he would have those who shot him taken for false imprisonment. This had the effect to intimidate the officers there, until Ridgely escaped over the bridge, and made his way to Maryland."

